

"The longer this war drags on, the clearer it becomes that it is the wrong war at the wrong time for the wrong reasons. Trying to make up for the fact that the Administration insisted on going into Iraq with too few troops more than three years ago by escalating our involvement now is not a 'new strategy.' Several times over the course of the war we have tried short-term troop surges but they have not stopped the sectarian violence from getting worse. There is nothing to suggest this time is any different. There are only so many times you can re-package the same plan.

"The president needs to acknowledge the reality both in Iraq and here at home, and start working with the Democratic Congress to bring our troops home now. While I'm glad he can finally admit that he's not satisfied with the situation, it's hard to understand why it took him so long to make this admission. In response to the midterm elections, the president has changed the secretary of defense and his top advisors, but he still refuses to change his policy.

"It goes against the tides of history to escalate our involvement at this point in the war. There is a way forward, but that way is fewer troops, not more. Our men and women in uniform should not be involved in a civil war. The Iraqi government must take responsibility for their own governance and our continued presence is only inciting the insurgency further. We must get out now. As General Creighton Abrams said of Vietnam, 'We can't run this thing...They've got to run it.'"